

## Angel's Attic Offers Hope and Healthy Options to Combat Food Insecurity in NEPA

Every day, our team at Community Services meets people of all ages who are facing food insecurity. All it takes is just one unexpected situation — a medical diagnosis, major car repair, or lay-offs at work — to cripple a household's ability to provide enough food for each person to remain as active and healthy as possible. Angel's Attic food pantry is a valuable, sustaining local resource for those in crisis, which is why we have been diligent in finding new and better ways to meet their needs.

One such way was to go directly to our consumers with a list of important questions. As part of the Listen4Good Fund for Shared Insight program, we designed and distributed a client-focused feedback form. What did we learn from over 200 responders? They hoped for more fresh food, like produce and dairy.

We listened to their wishes, and with the support from the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank, healthier options are now in place. As part of its Healthy Pantry Initiative, CEO Weinberg donated new produce shelving to Angel's Attic so our consumers can now select their own fresh fruits and vegetables. Staff is also working with the food bank's nutritionists who determine the right combination of foods to pack a more balanced, nutritious bag. "This new system is helping us get healthier foods into our consumers' hands," says Gus Fahey, UNC's Director of Community Services. "We feel like we can have a positive impact on people's diets and overall health."

With higher quantities and more nutritious food being delivered to Angel's Attic every two weeks, the food bank also generously donated two new freezers and a new refrigerator to help accommodate the larger deliveries containing yogurt, fresh produce, frozen fruit and vegetables, fresh milk and different meats.

There has also been a change to UNC's food distribution cycle. In the past, a family would receive one bag of food per month. Because UNC is an active partner in CEO Weinberg's goal to end hunger in our community by 2025, we are now allowing consumers to self-declare whenever they need food from our pantry. "Families can receive one item like a loaf of bread or as



*With these new produce shelves in Angel's Attic food pantry, consumers can now choose their own fruits and vegetables. Pictured from left to right: Mary Kay D'Elia, Weinberg Food Bank nutritionist; Mari Sanchez, UNC's Community Services receptionist; and Gus Fahey, UNC's Community Services director.*

much as a bag of food every day if they need it," said Fahey. "We couldn't keep this program running smoothly without our dedicated volunteers, who cumulatively contribute more than 300 hours per month to sort, store and bag the donated items."

Since implementing these ideas, it is not surprising that our food output numbers have more than doubled. For instance, last summer we served 450 families per month. Now, distribution totals reach well over 900. "The fact that this number has increased significantly shows we are answering a real need," said Fahey, "and that there's so much more work to be done to combat hunger in our area."



**SPRING  
2019**

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Lisa Durkin

## LETTER FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT & CEO

A few months back when my appointment as UNC's new President and CEO was made public, a friend sent me a book called "Transitions." As she predicted, it helped put language around my racing thoughts and appreciate the difference between change and transition; change being situational and transition being more psychological. Becoming the successor of a longtime, beloved leader has been more than a mere change, it's been a transition not only for me, but for my 97 coworkers at UNC as well. Together we've been going through the stages. We recognized the ending when we honored Mike Hanley at his retirement party and said our goodbyes. We persisted through the neutral zone as we reacquainted ourselves to our roles and priorities and now we are well underway in defining our new normal. Normal for us is doing what we do best, helping others. We recognize that some transitions can be exciting while others bring challenges.

Here at the agency we interact, on a daily basis, with hundreds of individuals enduring transition in their lives. Homeless individuals are transitioning into new places of residence, teenagers are transitioning into adulthood, immigrants and refugees are transitioning into unfamiliar cultures and communities, people with chronic health conditions are developing new habits and skills, and older adults are making transitions to new lifestyles after the loss of a loved one or a move to a new home.

Throughout all of our departments, our commitment is 100% customer satisfaction as we support such individuals through their times of transition. Our many programs and services will be delivered with our traditional brand of sensitivity but with extra appreciation for the process and stages of transition. It is with this commitment that we'll honor Mike's legacy and shape our future success.

## Wegmans Donates \$15,812 for Feed A Friend



Every year during the holiday season, Wegmans in Dickson City holds a special collection to help offset the costs of Thanksgiving dinners provided to more than 1,200 local low-income families with children in Lackawanna County. Recently, Wegmans representatives presented UNC with a generation donation of \$15,812 for our Feed A Friend program.

Pictured from left to right: Jessica Wallo, Vice President of Programs and Services for UNC; Michelle Katula, Wegmans cashier; Rosemarie Sember, Wegmans cashier; Andrew Berry, Service Area Manager at Wegmans; Julie Schaffer, Wegmans cashier; Lisa Durkin, President and CEO of UNC; and Lori Bray, Front End Manager at Wegmans.

***We are very grateful for the continued support we receive from Wegmans throughout the year, and especially want to thank the shoppers who gave a little extra for families in need. It goes a long way.***



# Michael Hanley Retires After 30 Years

On January 31, we hosted a retirement celebration at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton to honor our CEO and friend, Michael Hanley, for his 30 years of service to UNC. The agency experienced remarkable growth under Mike's tenure, thanks to his leadership, guidance and service. With more than 250 people in attendance, Mike's sendoff was a warm one, surrounded by many familiar faces from our community. Mike has always been a strong advocate for youth programming, so it was a special surprise to have participants from UNC's Youth Arts Program create the table centerpieces and photo station for the evening. Thank you to all who attended and supported this special tribute.



*Peg Ruddy and Mike Hanley*



*Debra Trickel and Amy Belcher*



*Senator John Blake and Jane Oppenheim*



*Gail Waters with John and Nancy Bogdanoviz*



*Ray Ferrario and Rose Broderick*



*Msgr. Joseph Kelly with Donna and Chester Hine*



## Registration Now Open

Hurry to [uncnepa.org/campkelly](http://uncnepa.org/campkelly)! Spots are filling up quickly for our fun summer programs. Questions? Call Alexis at (570) 344-9882.

### 2019 CAMP SEASON

Girls Resident 1: July 7—July 12  
Girls Resident 2: July 14—July 19  
Girls Resident 3: July 21—July 26  
Girls Basketball: July 21—July 26  
Boys Basketball: July 29—August 2  
Boys Resident: July 29—August 2  
Father Son Weekend: August 16-18  
Women's Weekend: August 23-25



## Moses Taylor Foundation Grants \$42,120 to Community Health Department

The Moses Taylor Foundation recently granted \$42,120 to our Community Health Department to assist us in preparing for the healthcare changes coming in 2020. This funding will allow us to build upon our existing service coordination role within the community, with the help of a consulting firm. Consumers who use service coordination are able to age safely in their own homes, rather than having to move to a nursing or care facility.

# UNC NEWS



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## Seniors Got Talent Slated for April 7 Wins National Award

Seniors Got Talent is typically the one handing out awards, but this year, the show is on the receiving end.

The annual event, which benefits UNC's Active Older Adult programs, has recently been named runner-up in the fundraising category for the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) Programs of Excellence, sponsored by the National Council on Aging.

Each year, the NISC honors outstanding efforts made by senior centers across the nation that offer innovative, creative and replicable programs for older adults. Seniors Got Talent was one of the two winners recognized in this category out of 80 applicants nationwide.

Tickets are now available for this year's show, which takes place on April 7. Contestants age 55 and older will take the stage to compete for cash prizes and an Audience Choice Award. Three local celebrities will judge the competition: Stacy Lange, of WNEP-TV; Justin Sochovka, of QVC; and Frankie Warren, of Magic 93. In the second half of the show, a local professional group will perform acts from the musical Nunsense.

To purchase tickets in advance, call (570) 346-0759 ext. 114 or go to [uncnepa.org/events](http://uncnepa.org/events).



*Pictured are members of the 7th Annual Seniors Got Talent planning committee. Standing, from left: Evie McNulty, Carol Thomas, Louise Ligi, Rose Broderick, Jill Eidenberg, and Thom Welby. Seated, from left: Laurie Fleming, Nick Gianuzzi, Anthony Nicosia and Annette Palutis.*



**Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m.**

**Peoples Security Bank Theater  
at Lackawanna College**

**Tickets: \$15 in advance  
\$20 at door**